

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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President's Office

No. 140/PO

**DECREE**  
*of the*  
**PRESIDENT**  
*of the*  
**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**On the Promulgation of the Law on Tourism**

Pursuant to Chapter 6, Article 67, point 1 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

Pursuant to Resolution No. 54, dated 18 November 2005, of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the National Assembly regarding the adoption of the Law on Tourism:

Pursuant to Proposal No. 17/NASC, dated 18 November 2005, of the National Assembly Standing Committee.

**The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Decrees That:**

**Article 1.** The Law on Tourism is hereby promulgated.

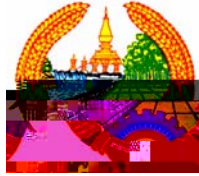
**Article 2.** This decree shall enter into force on the date it is signed.

Vientiane, 9 December 2005

The President of the Lao People's  
Democratic Republic

*[Seal and Signature]*

Khamtai SIPHANDON



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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National Assembly

No. 10/NA  
9 November 2005

## LAW ON TOURISM

### Part I General Provisions

#### Article 1. Purpose

This Law on Tourism determines the principles, regulations and measures on the establishment, activities and administration of tourism, with the aims to promote, develop and extend cultural, historical, [and] nature tourism in sustainable ways,<sup>1</sup> to transform into a modern tourism industry, to contribute to national protection and development, [and] to promote mutual understanding, peace, friendship, and cooperation in international development.

#### Article 2. Tourism

Tourism is the travel from one's residence to other locations or countries for the purpose of visiting, sightseeing, relaxation, entertainment, cultural exchange, sport, health promotion, research [and] study<sup>2</sup>, exhibitions, meetings, and others<sup>3</sup>, without any intention to seek work or undertake a professional career in order to make a profit in any form.

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<sup>1</sup> For readability, the sentence structure has been modified.

<sup>2</sup> The Lao word is a compound word: "research-study".

<sup>3</sup> The term "and others" is a literal translation and is not subject to further specificity.





The State attends to the creation of conditions favourable to, and to the protection of the rights and interests of, individuals, [and] organisations within the country and abroad that invest in the development and promotion of tourism.

**Article 5. Obligations of Individuals and Organisations**

To promote tourism, individuals and domestic organisations have the obligation to contribute to the conservation, protection, development and promotion of culture, fine national traditions, arts, literature, handicraft with unique characteristics, tourism resources, [and] the wealth and beauty of national natural resources.

Foreign individuals and organisations entering the Lao PDR have the same duty to contribute to the protection of tourism sites, culture and the fine national traditions of Laos.

**Article 6. International Cooperation**

The State promotes international cooperation in tourism to exchange lessons [and] information, to build and train officials, to attract assistance, to promote investments, and to advertise Lao tourism, in order to promote tourism development and provide an international standard of tourism services.

**Part II  
Tourism Resources**

**Chapter 1  
Types of Tourism Resources**

**Article 7. Types of Tourism Resources**

Tourism resources are divided into two types:

- Nature tourism resources;
- Manmade tourism resources.

**Article 8. Nature Tourism Resources**

Nature tourism resources consist of: landscape scenery, cliffs, caves, plateaus, high mountains, volcanoes, flatlands, forests, plants, wild and aquatic animals, insects, flowers, rivers, islands, beaches, ponds, marshes, waterfalls, rapids, hot springs, natural occurrences, and others.



**Article 13. Tourism Resources at Local Level**

Tourism resources at local level are places that create attractions and draw attention mostly from domestic tourists, that have areas where development can be extended, that provide basic comfortable facilities and that are important for income generation in the locality.

Tourism resources at local level include tourism sites at provincial, district and community levels, such as: Tat Lor, Chang Cave, Tat Mune.

**Part III  
Tourism Activities**

**Chapter 1  
Tourism Advertisement**

**Article 14. Purpose**

The purpose of advertisement is to enable citizens to understand the importance of tourism and contribute to the protection and promotion of tourism, to make domestic tourists proud to travel within their home country, to make foreign tourists aware that the Lao PDR is an attractive place and to be willing to visit and learn about Laos, and at the same time to open up and increase the Lao tourism market.

**Article 15. Contents of Advertisement**

Tourism advertisement shall focus on beautiful and outstanding natural resources, [on] cultural, historical and natural tourism products that have unique national character, and [on] services, [all of] which are able to attract and impress tourists.

The present tourism slogan of the Lao PDR is “**Laos, the Jewel of the Mekong.**”

**Article 16. Form and Methods of Advertisement**

Tourism advertisements use the following forms and methods [of communication]:

- Festivals, cultural events, ceremonies, exhibitions and trade fairs at local, national, regional and international levels;
- State [or] private mass media communication networks, including domestic and foreign networks;
- Through ceremonies [and] activities promoting tourism and others;
- Through equipment and publications;
- Through other forms and methods that serve the advertisement and promotion of Lao tourism.





## **Chapter 4**

### **Places of Temporary Accommodation**

#### **Article 23. Types of Places of Temporary Accommodation**

Places of temporary accommodation include the following types: hotels, guesthouses, resorts, motels, campsites, tourist boats, caravans and other places of temporary accommodation supplying rooms to tourists and other necessary services.

#### **Article 24. Levels of Places of Temporary Accommodation**

Places of temporary accommodation have different levels, and the classification of levels aims to determine the standard and quality of places of temporary accommodation and to provide a variety of options to tourists.

The classification and decoration of places of temporary accommodation shall be determined by special regulations.

#### **Article 25. Accommodation Services**

Accommodation services shall fulfil assurances of quality, comfort, safety and cleanliness.

Providers of accommodation services shall have received certain professional training relating to accommodation services, have good people skills, be gentle, honest, friendly, and cheerful and have other [qualities] that give satisfaction to tourists.

#### **Article 26. Determination of Fees for Temporary Accommodation**

The fees for temporary accommodations shall be reasonable, [and] suitable to the level or standard of such accommodations. Tourists and concerned agencies shall be given advance notice, in an adequate and timely manner, of any change in the fees for accommodations, together with reasons.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Food, Beverages and Entertainment**

#### **Article 27. Food and Beverages**

Food and beverages provided to tourists shall meet assurances of quality, safety, [and] cleanliness consistent with the sanitary measures specified in the Law on Foods.

In order to provide tourists with multiple options, menus of food and beverages should indicate the prices.

Providers of services relating to food and beverages shall comply with professional standards, and have good people skills.

**Article 28. Entertainment**

Entertainment consists of: playing music, artistic performances, dances, singing songs and folksongs, playing international music, and others, which display the unique culture and fine national traditions of the Lao PDR, [or] which are world-class performances.<sup>14</sup>

Entertainment may be arranged in places of temporary accommodation, restaurants or at specific places as determined in detail in specific regulations.

**Article 29. Health Promotion**

Health promotion consists of: sporting activities, exercises, traditional massages, herbal saunas, hot spring baths, sunbathing, and others, as appropriate.

Health promotion may be arranged in places of temporary accommodation or other places.

**Chapter 6  
Souvenirs**

**Article 30. The Importance of Souvenirs**

Souvenirs are items that bring back good memories to tourists in respect of the artists, cultures, history, and traditions of Laos, [and] which display the precision, beauty and skills of the multi-ethnic Lao people.

**Article 31. Types of Souvenirs**

There are many types of souvenirs, [such as]: gold and silver jewellery, wickerwork, weave designs (such as laichok [and] matmee), needlework, decorated items, carved items, paintings, pottery, music instruments, and others, which are made with precision and reflect the fine culture, traditions, and livelihood of the multi-ethnic Lao people.

**Article 32. Place for Exhibition of Souvenirs**

Souvenirs shall be displayed and sold at places of temporary accommodation, and at locations where tourists pass by, that are properly decorated, clean and beautiful. Souvenirs shall mostly be domestic products.

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<sup>14</sup> The literal translation is the “outstanding and advances of the world”.

**Chapter 7**  
**Safety**

**Article 33. Safety Measures**

Tourism services shall fulfil assurances of safety to the life, health and property of tourists. Service providers shall have safety measures and technical standards consistent with standards [and] measures issued by the relevant sectors.

In the event of any emergency, the tourism service provider or any person who sees such occurrence shall pr

**Article 39. The Conduct of Guided Tour Services**

Guided tour services shall be conducted in accordance with the determined plan, programme, schedule, standard and quality of the relevant guided tour.

**Article 40. Fees for Guided Tours**

- To coordinate with the concerned agencies in the performance of their duties;
- To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as prescribed by laws and regulations.

**Part IV**  
**Tourists and Entry-Exit**

**Chapter 1**  
**Tourists**

**Article 44. Types of Tourists**

**Chapter 2**  
**Entry and Exit of Tourists into and out of the Country**

**Article 48. Entry and Exit Permit**

Tourists planning to travel to the Lao PDR shall use their passports, border passes or travel permits, as specified by the regulations of the Lao

- Development plans for tourism sites.

**Article 52. Principles of Planning**

Tourism planning shall be based on the following basic principles:

- Be based on potential resources and consistent with national and local socio-economic development plans;
- Follow policy directions on cultural, historical and nature tourism with the participation of the community;
- Assure sustainability in connection with the protection of the natural environment, and Lao social and fine traditions;
- Encourage and promote domestic producers to supply the needs of tourists;
- Focus on the promotion of domestic tourism and international tourism;
- Target outstanding areas, including the promotion of new tourism products that are competitive in the region and the world.

**Article 53. The Contents of Tourism Development Plans<sup>18</sup>**

Tourism development plans shall define the primary contents, purposes, objectives, development goals, assessments and analyses of potential resources, conditions of the tourism market, [and] the outcomes [and] impacts on the economy, society, culture and the environment, including determination of methods, regulations and measures for implementation.

**Chapter 2  
Development of Tourism Sites**

**Article 54. Procedures for the Development of Tourism Sites**

Procedures for the development of tourism sites consist of: surveying, planning, dividing and allocating areas for [tourism sites], designing [tourism sites], investing in the construction of [tourism sites], and summarising<sup>19</sup> the history of tourism sites.

**Article 55. Allocation of Tourism Sites for Development**

Tourism sites shall be allocated for development bas4 of To sites shall be ing, dividing an







**1. Individuals:**

- Shall be Lao citizens, aliens, apatrids residing in the Lao PDR;
- Shall have the capacity to act;
- Shall have never been criminally punished;
- Shall not be persons in bankruptcy who have not completed the period during which they are prohibited from conducting business.

**2. Legal Entities:**

Domestic legal entities that are business units:

- Shall possess lawful business licenses;
- Must have an office in the Lao PDR;
- Shall have performed obligations owed to the State in accordance with the laws and regulations.

Other legal entities shall get special permission from concerned authorities.

Foreign individuals or organisations have the right to establish an enterprise to conduct tourism business activities in the Lao PDR, mainly: hotels, resorts, restaurants, [and] tourism sites. For the business of transnational guided tours, the State permits foreign legal entities to jointly invest with domestic investors.

Foreign individuals or organisations shall not be permitted to conduct certain tourism business reserved for Lao citizens, [such as]: the tour guide profession, the business of domestic guided tours, the tour business in a specific area, guesthouses, and daily room services.

Detailed regulations on [obtaining] permission for investment and establishment of tourism enterprises in the Lao PDR by foreign individuals or legal entities are separately stipulated.

**Article 65. Rights and Duties of Tourism Enterprises**

Tourism enterprises shall have the following main rights:

- To freely conduct their business in accordance with the laws;
- To have their legitimate rights and benefits protected by the laws;
- To participate in activities of tourism business associations<sup>20</sup>;
- To determine the fees for tourism services consistent with the condition and standard of their services.

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<sup>20</sup> See footnote 18. Here, the translators understand that there are several associations in the tourism industry and have therefore translated this term in the plural.





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- To organise training of human resources on tourism activities;
- To coordinate with other concerned sectors at their levels in the administration, warning, imposing of fines, suspension or proposal for termination of tourism businesses;
- To regularly report to the National Tourism Authority and to the provincial administrations on the implementation of their duties on the administration, development and promotion of tourism;
- To cooperate with foreign countries relating to tourism activities as assigned by their higher authorities;
- To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as regulated by the laws and regulations or as assigned by the National Tourism Authority.

**Article 71. Rights and Duties of Tourism Offices**

The tourism offices at the district or municipal level shall have the following main rights and duties:

- To implement plans, laws, regulations and orders on the administration and promotion of tourism issued by the National Tourism Authority and the tourism divisions;
- To administer tourism businesses within its district or municipality to operate their businesses in accordance with the laws and regulations;
- To conduct surveys, to plan for conservation, protection, restoration [and] development and to administer tourism sites

## **Chapter 2** **Inspection<sup>25</sup>**

### **Article 73. Inspection Authorities**

The tourism inspection authorities are the same as the tourism administration authorities described in Article 68 of this law.

### **Article 74. Rights and Duties of Inspection Authorities**

The tourism inspection authorities shall have the following rights and duties:

- To monitor the implementation of strategies, policies, plans, projects, laws and regulations relating to tourism;
- To inspect the activities of tourism businesses, mainly: to examine documents and undertake on-site inspections;
- To inspect and deal with the proposals of individuals or organisations on tourism activities;
- To impose sanctions on persons violating laws and regulations on tourism;
- To coordinate with other concerned agencies on the work of tourism inspection;
- The persons who are inspected shall cooperate with and facilitate the inspection authorities.

### **Article 75. Forms of Inspection**

There are three forms of inspection, as follows:

- Regular systematic inspection;
- Inspection following an advance notice;
- Emergency inspection.

Regular systematic inspections are inspections which are carried out according to plans, on a regular basis and at a specified time, which shall be performed at least once a year.

An inspection following an advance notice is an inspection that is conducted when it is necessary, by giving prior notice to the persons responsible for the administration or operation of the tourism business at least

